sequence probe hybridize to non-overlapping regions within the target nucleic acid and do not hybridize to each other;

B1 cont.

b) adding a blocker probe to the hybridization reaction, wherein said blocker probe hybridizes to excess non-hybridized capture sequence probes;

c) detecting the bound hybrid.

B2

19. (amended)The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the bound hybrid is detected using an antibody which recognizes a hybrid.

21. (amended)The method of claim 20, wherein the antibody which recognizes a DNA-RNA hybrid is labelled with alkaline-phosphatase.

22. (amended)A method of detecting a target nucleic acid comprising:

B3

a) hybridizing a single-stranded target nucleic acid to a capture sequence probe and a signal sequence probe, wherein the capture sequence probe and the signal sequence probe hybridizes to non-overlapping regions within the target nucleic acid and do not hybridize to each other, wherein said hybridization forms an RNA-DNA hybrid between said signal sequence probe and the target nucleic acid; and

b) detecting the RNA-DNA hybrid by binding an antibody which recognizes the RNA-DNA hybrid to said hybrid, wherein said antibody is detectably labelled.

Sub C1

40. (amended)A method of detecting a target nucleic acid comprising:

B4

a) hybridizing a single stranded target nucleic acid to a capture sequence probe and a signal sequence probe, wherein the capture sequence probe and the signal sequence probe hybridize to non-overlapping regions within the target nucleic acid and do not hybridize to each other, wherein the signal sequence probe comprises a DNA-RNA hybrid region, wherein said hybridization forms a complex; and

b) detecting said complex.

B5

42. (amended)The method of claim 40 wherein said complex is detected by binding an antibody which recognizes the DNA-RNA hybrid region to said region, wherein the antibody is detectably labelled.

50. (amended)A method of detecting a target nucleic acid comprising:

B6

a) hybridizing a single-stranded target nucleic acid to a capture sequence probe, a bridge probe and a signal sequence probe to form double-stranded hybrids between said capture sequence and bridge probes and the target nucleic acid, wherein the capture sequence probe and the bridge probe hybridize to non-overlapping regions within the target